

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A system for selecting bus mastership in a multi-master system, comprising:

a plurality of master devices configured to generate control signals relating to control of a bus in the multi-master system; and

a plurality of slave devices connected to the master devices via the bus, each of the slave devices being configured to:

receive the control signals from the master devices,

determine whether a conflict in the control signals exists ~~based on the control signals~~,

generate one or more alternate control signals for selecting bus mastership when a conflict is determined to exist, and

determine which of the master devices obtains control of the bus using the one or more alternate control signals when a conflict is determined to exist.

2. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein each of the slave devices comprises:

bus selection logic configured to determine whether the control signals indicate that two or more of the master devices concurrently assert control of the bus and generate a conflict

indication signal when two or more of the master devices concurrently assert control of the bus,
and

conflict resolution logic configured to generate the one or more alternate control signals
in response to the conflict indication signal.

3. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more alternate
control signals include a bus switch signal that indicates whether a change in control of the bus is
to occur and a bus select signal that indicates which of the master devices is to be granted control
of the bus.

4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein each of the slave devices
comprises:

bus selection logic configured to determine whether the control signals indicate that none
of the master devices asserts control of the bus and maintain a previous grant of control of the
bus when none of the master devices asserts control of the bus.

5. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein each of the slave devices
is further configured to determine which of the master devices obtains control of the bus based
on the control signals when no conflict is determined to exist.

6. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the control signals include
a present signal that indicates whether a corresponding one of the master devices is operating and

a master signal that indicates whether a corresponding one of the master devices asserts control of the bus.

7. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the control signals include a master signal that indicates whether a corresponding one of the master devices asserts control of the bus.

8. (previously presented) A system for selecting a master in a multi-master system, comprising:

means for outputting first and second control signals relating to mastership in the multi-master system from each of a plurality of masters in the multi-master system;

means for determining whether a conflict for mastership exists based on the first and second control signals;

means for generating a switch signal and a select signal when a conflict is determined to exist; and

means for selecting one of the masters using the switch signal and the select signal.

9. (original) A method for selecting a bus in a multi-bus system, comprising:
generating control signals relating to bus selection in the multi-bus system;
determining whether a conflict for bus selection exists based on the control signals;
generating one or more alternate control signals when a conflict is determined to exist;
and

selecting a bus using the one or more alternate control signals.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the determining includes:
determining whether the control signals indicate that two or more of the buses are to be selected concurrently, and
generating a conflict indication signal when the control signals indicate that two or more of the buses are to be selected concurrently.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the generating one or more alternate control signals includes:
generating the one or more alternate control signals in response to the conflict indication signal.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more alternate control signals include a bus switch signal that indicates whether a change in bus selection is to occur and a bus select signal that indicates which of the buses is to be selected.

13. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
determining whether the control signals indicate that the buses are idle; and
maintaining a previous bus selection when the control signals indicate that the buses are idle.

14. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

selecting a bus using the control signals when no conflict is determined to exist.

15. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the control signals include a present signal that indicates whether a corresponding bus is operating and a master signal that indicates whether a corresponding bus is to be used.

16. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the control signals include a master signal that indicates whether a corresponding bus is to be used.

17. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium that stores instructions executable by one or more processors to perform a method for selecting a master in a multi-master system, comprising:

instructions for outputting a plurality of control signals relating to selection of a master from each of a plurality of masters in the multi-master system;

instructions for determining whether a conflict for selection of a master exists based on the control signals;

instructions for generating a switch control signal and a select control signal when a conflict is determined to exist; and

instructions for selecting one of the masters using the switch control signal and the select control signal.

18. (previously presented) In a multi-master system comprising a plurality of master devices connected to a plurality of slave devices, each of the slave devices comprising:
selection logic configured to determine whether control signals from the master devices indicate that two or more of the master devices concurrently assert mastership within the multi-master system, generate a conflict indication signal when two or more of the master devices concurrently assert mastership, and select mastership using one or more alternate control signals when two or more of the master devices concurrently assert mastership; and
conflict resolution logic configured to generate the one or more alternate control signals to identify mastership in response to the conflict indication signal.

19. (previously presented) The slave device of claim 18, wherein the one or more alternate control signals include a switch signal that indicates whether a change in mastership is to occur and a select signal that indicates which of the master devices is to be granted mastership.

20. (previously presented) The slave device of claim 18, wherein the control signals include a present signal that indicates whether a corresponding one of the master devices is operating and a master signal that indicates whether a corresponding one of the master devices asserts mastership.

21. (previously presented) The slave device of claim 18, wherein the control signals include a master signal that indicates whether a corresponding one of the master devices asserts mastership.

22. (previously presented) The slave device of claim 18, wherein the selection logic is further configured to select the mastership using the control signals when the control signals indicate that one of the master devices asserts mastership.

23. (previously presented) A method for selecting bus mastership in a multi-master system comprising a plurality of master devices connected to a plurality of slave devices via at least one bus, the method, performed by each of the slave devices, comprising:

determining whether control signals from the master devices indicate that two or more of the master devices concurrently assert bus mastership;

generating one or more alternate control signals to identify which of the master devices obtains bus mastership when two or more of the master devices concurrently assert bus mastership;

determining which of the master devices obtains bus mastership using the one or more alternate control signals when two or more of the master devices concurrently assert bus mastership; and

determining which of the master devices obtains bus mastership using the control signals when one of the master devices asserts bus mastership.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the one or more alternate control signals include a bus switch signal that indicates whether a change in bus mastership is to occur and a bus select signal that indicates which of the master devices is to be granted bus mastership.

25. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the control signals include a present signal that indicates whether a corresponding one of the master devices is operating and a master signal that indicates whether a corresponding one of the master devices asserts bus mastership.

26. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the control signals include a master signal that indicates whether a corresponding one of the master devices asserts bus mastership.

27. (previously presented) A multi-master system, comprising:
a plurality of master devices configured to generate control signals relating to bus mastership;
conflict resolution logic configured to receive the control signals from the master devices, determine whether the control signals indicate that two or more of the master devices concurrently assert bus mastership, and generate a switch signal and a select signal when it is determined that two or more of the master devices concurrently assert bus mastership; and
a plurality of slave devices configured to select bus mastership using the switch signal and the select signal when the control signals indicate that two or more of the master devices concurrently assert bus mastership.

28. (currently amended) A multi-bus system, comprising:
a plurality of buses;

a plurality of master devices corresponding to the buses, each of the master devices controlling a corresponding one of the buses, the master devices generating control signals that indicate which of the buses is an active bus; and

a plurality of slave devices connected to each of the buses and configured to receive the control signals, determine whether the control signals indicate that two or more of the buses are declared active buses, generate alternate control signals when the control signals indicate that two or more of the buses are declared active buses, and select one of the buses ~~when the control signals indicate that two or more of the buses are declared active buses~~ as the active bus using the alternate control signals.

29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)